

To: Burke, Thomas[Burke.Thomas@epa.gov]
From: Corona, Elizabeth
Sent: Tue 5/10/2016 9:53:56 PM
Subject: FW: REC Background
CRESSIDA-One Pager with Map-Nov 2015.pdf
ATT00001.htm

Heads up, Jose called me tonight about this and indicated that he thought Jennifer is a good second choice since she's already looped in.

--

Elizabeth Corona, PhD, MBA

EPA / ORD / Immediate Office

(Desk) 202-564-8356

(Cell) 703-859-2608

From: Kavlock, Robert
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 5:52 PM
To: Burke, Thomas <Burke.Thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Gwinn, Maureen <gwinn.maureen@epa.gov>; Corona, Elizabeth <Corona.Elizabeth@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: REC Background

Tom

Understand you need a decision today to tell OITA. If you want a short timer like me to handle this for next year I can do so. Although I am a bit concerned about how much international travel I would have on the books. Going to OECD in June, Singapore (still not confirmed but close) in July and Basel the end of November. Understand if you prefer i not be gone too many times.

Bob

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Gwinn, Maureen" <gwinn.maureen@epa.gov>
To: "Kavlock, Robert" <Kavlock.Robert@epa.gov>
Cc: "Corona, Elizabeth" <Corona.Elizabeth@epa.gov>
Subject: REC Background

Bob –

Here's what we have in hand. I pulled this from the attachments as needed so no need to open the attachments.

Bottom line – likely two weeks a year travel to Eastern Europe. Most of in between effort covered by OITA. Somewhat different than Lek's previous role as the State Dept wants EPA to hold a position on the Board.

The **Regional Environmental Center (REC) for Central and Eastern Europe** provides assistance in solving environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe by promoting cooperation among governments, non-governmental organizations, businesses and other environmental stakeholders; and by supporting the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision-making. Established in 1990 by the United States, Hungary and the European Commission, the REC is a non-partisan, non-advocacy, not-for-profit international organization.

Organization is currently in transition – the Executive Director for the past 15 years is leaving and the spot needs to be replaced and the REC direction may be discussed by the Board.

Anna Phillips is on the General Assembly and deals with the day to day general issues – she would prep you and materials as needed.

REC Board nominations: The terms are for **3 years** (and renewable for 1 additional term unless the US holds the Board chairmanship – then a different person would have to serve).

Meetings: Generally 2 meetings a year, 1 – 2 days each, in Eastern Europe. Followed by a General Assembly meeting (2 days each) that you would mostly often be expected to attend. So likely **two weeks a year**.

Duties:

- Coordinate closely with appropriate EPA and U.S. Department of State officials/staff in the development of U.S. positions on key REC issues on an ongoing basis and in preparation for Board meetings

- Assist the REC in enhancing contacts and leveraging relevant regional and international projects and programs

- Participate (either in person or remotely) in formal meetings of the REC Board of Directors which are held 2-3 times per year in Budapest or occasionally in REC countries of operation

- Participate in Board subcommittees that are of importance to REC and U.S. interests (e.g., Recruitment of REC Executive Director, Finance Committee)

- Participate in annual REC General Assembly which is generally scheduled on the margins of the fall Board meeting

- Participate in additional discussions with appropriate U.S. Government staff as needed

Special Assistant/IOAA

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From: Zambrana, Jose
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 4:42 PM
To: Gwinn, Maureen <gwinn.maureen@epa.gov>; Corona, Elizabeth <Corona.Elizabeth@epa.gov>
Cc: Plotkin, Viktoriya <Plotkin.Viktoriya@epa.gov>; Osaka, Anna <Osaka.Anna@epa.gov>; Lan, Alexis <lan.alexis@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: REC - background needed??

Hi all.

Established in 1990 by the United States, Hungary and the European Commission, the Regional Environmental Center of Central and Eastern Europe (REC) is a non-partisan, non-advocacy, not-for-profit international organization. EPA managed a robust program of environmental technical assistance in the region throughout the 1990s with financial support from USAID. More than twenty years later, EPA – through its Office of International and Tribal Affairs – remains the REC’s primary U.S. partner.

Attached are:

- 1) Info on the Board nomination and the REC. The terms are for 3 years (and renewable for 1 additional term unless the US holds the Board chairmanship – then a different person would have to serve).
- 2) REC Charter
- 3) Two pager on our current project (cooperative agreement) with the REC

Here is some additional background information on the REC and EPA’s role:

<https://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation/epas-role-regional-environmental-center-rec-central-and-eastern-europe>

Please let me know if you need anything else!

Best,

jose

José L. Zambrana, Jr., PhD

Senior Science Advisor in the Immediate Office of the Assistant Administrator

US EPA Office of Research and Development

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(213) 244-1850 (fax)

From: Gwinn, Maureen

Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 1:27 PM

To: Corona, Elizabeth <Corona.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Zambrana, Jose <Zambrana.Jose@epa.gov>

Cc: Plotkin, Viktoriya <Plotkin.Viktoriya@epa.gov>; Osaka, Anna <Osaka.Anna@epa.gov>; Lan, Alexis <lan.alexis@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: REC - background needed??

They need to get back to OITA today I believe – so if Bob is a no we need to circle the wagons pretty quickly.

Maureen R. Gwinn, PhD DABT ATS

Special Assistant/IOAA

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From: Corona, Elizabeth
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 4:18 PM
To: Zambrana, Jose <Zambrana.Jose@epa.gov>; Gwinn, Maureen <gwinn.maureen@epa.gov>
Cc: Plotkin, Viktoriya <Plotkin.Viktoriya@epa.gov>; Osaka, Anna <Osaka.Anna@epa.gov>; Lan, Alexis <lan.alexis@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: REC - background needed??

Just seeing this now. Thanks for jumping in, Jose.

--

Elizabeth Corona, PhD, MBA

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From: Zambrana, Jose
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 3:52 PM
To: Gwinn, Maureen <gwinn.maureen@epa.gov>
Cc: Plotkin, Viktoriya <Plotkin.Viktoriya@epa.gov>; Corona, Elizabeth <Corona.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Osaka, Anna <Osaka.Anna@epa.gov>; Lan, Alexis <lan.alexis@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: REC - background needed??

ok. will get you info soon

Sent from my iPhone

On May 10, 2016, at 12:18 PM, Gwinn, Maureen <gwinn.maureen@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks –

Alex/Jose –

We are looking for some quick bullets to let Bob know:

what REC does

how often they meet and for how long

the level of effort his involvement would entail

can you shoot me an email with that info based on Lek's engagement?

Maureen R. Gwinn, PhD DABT ATS

Special Assistant/IOAA

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From: Plotkin, Viktoriya

Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 3:15 PM

To: Gwinn, Maureen <gwinn.maureen@epa.gov>; Corona, Elizabeth <Corona.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Osaka, Anna <Osaka.Anna@epa.gov>

Cc: Lan, Alexis <lan.alexis@epa.gov>; Zambrana, Jose <Zambrana.Jose@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: REC - background needed??

Looping in Alex and Jose.

Viktoriya Plotkin

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From: Gwinn, Maureen

Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 3:08 PM

To: Corona, Elizabeth <Corona.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Plotkin, Viktoriya <Plotkin.Viktoriya@epa.gov>; Osaka, Anna <Osaka.Anna@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: REC - background needed??

Elizabeth and Vik and Anna –

See Bob's note below – do any of you already know any of the below because of Lek's connection with REC? I'm on a call and can try to pull from the website but some of it may not be on there?

More info on REC efforts: What they do, level of effort needed, when they meet and how often/how long?

Maureen R. Gwinn, PhD DABT ATS

Special Assistant/IOAA

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From: Kavlock, Robert

Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 3:05 PM

To: Gwinn, Maureen <gwinn.maureen@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: REC - no call needed

We did talk this morning but I asked for more info on what they do etc. Try to find out the level effort needed. When so they meet. How often. How long. Am afraid of doing too much international travel.

On May 10, 2016, at 2:58 PM, Gwinn, Maureen <gwinn.maureen@epa.gov> wrote:

Sorry - Elizabeth sent clarification below. Just looking to see if you are interested.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Corona, Elizabeth" <Corona.Elizabeth@epa.gov>
Date: May 10, 2016 at 2:53:13 PM EDT
To: "Gwinn, Maureen" <gwinn.maureen@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: REC

Oops. I got some clarification on this. Tom doesn't actually need to talk with Bob. He just needs to know if Bob wants to do it. I guess Tom talked with Bob about it on their check in call this morning. Will you be connecting with Bob this afternoon where you could ask him if he's interested?

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From: Corona, Elizabeth
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 2:40 PM
To: Gwinn, Maureen <gwinn.maureen@epa.gov>
Subject: REC

Hi Maureen,

Tom is hoping to connect with Bob this afternoon about an opportunity to serve as EPA's rep with the REC, which Lek is also involved in. I thought it might be helpful for Bob to have some info on REC and what they do. Here's the link and their mission statement. Let's chat between meetings and I can fill you in. Do you have a sense of when this afternoon they might be able to connect? Tom needs to get back to Jane Nishida today with a response. – Thanks, E

<http://www.rec.org/>

Mission Statement

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) is an international organisation with a mission to assist in addressing environmental issues. The REC fulfils this mission by promoting cooperation among governments, non-governmental organisations, businesses and other environmental stakeholders, and by supporting the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision making.

The REC was established in 1990 by the United States, the European Commission and Hungary. Today, the REC is legally based on a charter with over 30 signatories. The organisation relies on a network of offices and experts in Central and Eastern Europe and beyond. Its head office is located in Szentendre, Hungary.

The REC actively participates in key global, regional and local processes and contributes to environmental and sustainability solutions within and beyond its country office network, transferring transitional knowledge and experience to countries and regions.

Recent donors are the European Commission, the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism (Norway, Iceland Liechtenstein), the United Nations, the governments of Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as other international organisations, banks and businesses.

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